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Middle East

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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October 16, 1973

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

1. My feeling is that we should operate on a policy that tries to achieve a balance of sorts in the Middle East.
2. Insofar as the shipment of U. S. arms is concerned, it must be said that Secretary Kissinger first tried to find a diplomatic solution based on no arms shipments to either side. Finding that impossible because of continuing and increased Soviet shipments to Syria and Egypt on Sunday last, nine days after the war started, he announced that the U. S. would replenish the losses of Israel in certain categories. This was done, in my opinion, to achieve a semblance of an arms balance in the area.
3. I do not believe that we should become involved with American forces anywhere except as our national interests and security are at vital stake. One Vietnam is one Vietnam too many.
4. The United States and the Soviet Union, the two major outside powers, obviously have been unable to prevent the conflict or to bring about its termination. In view of the increasingly dangerous situation which has been developing, therefore, I would suggest that the President of the United States issue an urgent invitation to Chairman Brezhnev of the U.S.S.R., President Pompidou of France, Prime Minister Heath of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Willy Brandt of West Germany and Prime Minister Tanaka of Japan for an immediate Summit Conference for the purpose of bringing about a cease fire and using their collective efforts towards the Middle East to have the parties enter into negotiations as expeditiously as possible.
5. If a summit cannot be accomplished expeditiously, then I would suggest as an alternative that the Foreign Ministers of the countries mentioned convene in conference at a mutually convenient place and as rapidly as possible.